

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2236 - SB 2233

February 22, 2022

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (013903): Expands the definition of child abuse to include a child witnessing the abuse of another child in the child's immediate family or household or domestic abuse of a member of the child's immediate family or household.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Tennessee Code Annotated § 37-1-102(b)(1) establishes that child abuse is committed when a person under the age of 18 suffers from, has sustained, or may be in immediate danger of suffering from or sustaining a wound, injury, disability or physical or mental condition caused by brutality, neglect or other actions or inactions of a parent, relative, guardian or caretaker.
- The proposed legislation expands the offense of child abuse to include a child witnessing the abuse of another child in the child's immediate family or household or domestic abuse of a member of the child's immediate family or household.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Children's Services (DCS), the Department currently files petitions based on alleged child abuse where the minor victim is witnessing abuse.
- There will not be a significant change in the number of children committed to the DCS; therefore, any fiscal impact to DCS is not significant.
- There will not be a sufficient change in the number of prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant change in revenue or expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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